

Appl. No. 10/687,180
Amdt dated May 7, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 21, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-42 are pending. Claims 21-28 and 35-42 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to reformat them into more clearly defined process steps and calling for forming and displaying the information (about the internal structure of an object) as a 3D volumetric image.

The rejection of claims 1 – 14 under 35 USC § 101 as being non-statutory subject matter is believed obviated by the amendments.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 15-17, 19, 29-31, and 33 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swift (US 4472822) in view of Badea et al (“3D Imaging System for Dental Imaging Based on Digital Tomosynthesis and Cone Beam CT”) and Ruimi (US 6324246) is respectfully traversed. Without conceding anything about the rejection of the dependent claims, the basis for the rejections of independent claims 1, 15 and 29 is fundamentally flawed because the combination of these references do not show or suggest the important limitation that the axis of rotation of the object to be at a canted angle with respect to the image plane. As recognized by the Examiner, Swift fails to disclose this limitation. However, contrary to the Examiner’s contentions, Ruimi does not cure this deficiency. Whatever else Ruimi may show, Ruimi does not show that the object is “rotated... about an axis of rotation, the axis of rotation of the object being at a canted angle with respect to the image plane.” This limitation is also not disclosed by Badea. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 15-17, 19, 29-31, and 33 should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, because the limitations of Applicant’s independent claims 1, 15, and 29 are not disclosed, the rejection (based on the combination of either the same or different references) of all other claims that depend upon them should also be withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-20 and 29-34 should now be allowed.

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In view of the foregoing, applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3881. If an extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-3881.

Dated: May 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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